

Remarks

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated July 30, 2003. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice, claims 2 and 3 have been amended, and claim 4-10 have been added. Claims 2-10 are presently pending. No new matter has been added. Amendments to claim 2 and 3 with regard to the renaming of "lighting equipment" to "lighting device"; "surface light source" to "light source", and "illuminating body" to "optical body" have been made for ease of ready and are not intended to alter the scope of the terms or the claim. In addition, claim 2 has been amended to recite all of the elements of canceled claim 1 instead of referencing that claim. This amendment is also not intended to alter the scope of the claims.

§ 102 and §103 Rejections

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,208,466 to Liu et al. (hereinafter "Liu"). Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the alleged conventional art in view of Liu. The Applicants note that Liu was incorrectly cited in the Office Action as U.S. Patent No. 6,268,961. The Applicants thank the Examiner for clarifying the citation with the Applicants' representative. The Applicants traverse these rejections.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), claim 1 has been canceled and Liu does not teach all of the elements of claims 2 and 3 as amended. For example, Liu does not teach placing a lens film between the optical laminated body and the light source. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Liu is unavailable as a reference in view of 35 U.S.C. §103(c) for use in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) because Liu and the present application were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by 3M Innovative Properties Company. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested. Allowance of claims 2-10, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dec. 30, 2003
Date

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